



advantage after the removal of polypi from the ear, with the further result, so far as our experience goes, of diminishing the chances of recurrence of these very troublesome formations.

11. *Glycerine-Sichel; a new Topical Application.*—This preparation, which consists of pure glycerine and the yolk of egg, and has the appearance and consistence of honey, is highly praised as a local application for several purposes. In fissures of the nipples of nursing women it affords relief when other remedies fail. In eleven such cases, in which it was applied, it afforded relief in every one.

It has also been used in four cases of rupture of the perineum, and with equally favorable results.

In the clinic of Dr. Vernier it is daily used to anoint the hands when making an examination of suspicious women, and found to be a perfect protection from infection.

This preparation does not putrefy, does not become rancid like ointments; it assists in cleansing wounds, and promotes primary union.

In fissures of the mammae it protects the skin from the action of the saliva of the child, and from sour milk; it protects lesions of continuity from the air, and relieves pain. In ruptures of the perineum it protects the torn surfaces from being irritated by the urine and lochia.—*La Tribune Médicale*, 27th Sept. 1874, from *Gaz. Obstetricale et Gaz. de Joulin*, Sept. 1874.

12. *Milky Juice of Jatropha Curcas a powerful Hæmostatic.*—BAROO UNHOY CHAND DUTT extols (*Indian Med. Gaz.*, Oct. 1874) the milky juice of the *Jatropha Curcas* as an hæmostatic, and relates two cases of surgical hemorrhage in which he employed lint moistened with it with prompt arrest of the bleeding. The application does not cause pain or act as a caustic. "It simply curdles up the blood and covers the bleeding surface with a tenacious layer." It has no injurious effect on open wounds.

13. *Use of the Alcoholic Extract of Nux Vomica in Large Doses in Various Forms of Nervous Diseases, both Acute and Chronic.*—Dr. DE STEFANI combats the opinion of those physicians who regard nux vomica as an irritant of the spinal cord and explain its beneficial action in paralysis on this assumption, his own experience having demonstrated to him that the drug exerts a depressing action on the ganglionic system. As this system has numerous relations and sympathies with the cerebro-spinal, the nux vomica, according to Dr. de Stefani, acting upon both, relaxes the vital tension of the nerves, restores to them their natural conducting power, and also the degree of influence necessary to maintain the harmony of the vital functions of the organs, and consequently all the alterations in the vital fluids dependent on nervous affections are mitigated and removed even without the aid of any other medicines. From this belief in the depressing effects of nux vomica Dr. de Stefani employs it, and especially its alcoholic extracts, in all acute and severe hypersthenic maladies, as well as in chronic ones, whenever any nervous symptoms are manifested in connection with the ganglionic or cerebro-spinal system. In acute diseases, in proportion to the largeness of the dose, the curative action is more rapid, so that in twenty-four hours the patient may be rescued from danger in most instances. The action of nux vomica on the ganglionic system, is marked only by alleviation of the morbid symptoms, or at most by a slight tremulousness of the heart and internal viscera, but on the cerebro-spinal system it is manifested by a feeling of confusion (*sbalordimento*) in the head, and of something as it were penetrating into all the fibres to the marrow of the bones, and sometimes by a vivacity of the senses, or a tremulousness of the whole body or some slight spasm of the facial muscles. The tolerance of the drug is not always equal. In acute and serious diseases of the two nervous systems the tolerance is great, in the chronic affections of the ganglionic system it is greater than in that of the cerebro-spinal, and in the organic diseases it is in relation to the gravity of the nervous sympathies. Dr. de Stefani recognizes the intolerance of the drug by a test which he considers infallible. By

the rapidity of its action and the great sympathy between the two nervous systems, and by the extensive range of the spinal symptoms, the intolerance is so indicated in these last by the stiffness of the lower jaw and of the tongue, with some degree of sobriety in the lower limbs or in all the body, and when these indications are present a warning is conveyed as to the effects of the medicine.

Dr. de Stefani maintains, in reference to the curative action of nux vomica, that the drug depresses the muscular force, if this has been stimulated by hypersthenia, and stimulates it when it has been apparently depressed by the same cause; that it lowers the pulse when it is hard and vibrating, and raises it when it is small and weak; that it lowers excessive heat of the skin and warms the skin when it is morbidly cold; that it regulates both the pulse and the heat of skin when they are variable several times in the day; that it relieves ardent thirst; that in costiveness which has resisted repeated purgatives it opens the bowels, and in some cases arrests diarrhoea; that it also arrests spontaneous hemorrhage and relieves hæmorrhoids; that it relaxes spasms, removes neuralgic, pleuritic, and rheumatic pains, cures delirium, and removes morbid wakefulness, or awakes patients from morbid sleep, promotes perspiration when deficient or arrests it when profuse, etc., whenever these symptoms are the results of a nervous affection. Dr. de Stefani, however, gives a judicious warning not to employ the nux vomica at first, even in cases where its use is indicated, unless the occasion be very urgent, because many nervous diseases may be cured by ordinary remedies. But when other means have failed, and the use of nux vomica is decided upon, then it is necessary to guard against giving too small doses, because the inefficacy of the dose might induce a doubt as to the action of the remedy, or, on the other hand, the supervention of new symptoms might be erroneously attributed to the drug instead of to the disease itself. When therefore the first prescription does not produce the desired effect, the dose should be increased as long as tolerance exists, and should be repeated for two, three, or more days, and, even when the symptoms have been relieved, the medicine should be continued, in order to prevent a relapse.

The dose of the alcoholic extract of nux vomica recommended by Dr. de Stefani in subjects of middle age suffering from chronic disease is from five to ten centigrammes (about  $\frac{1}{8}$  to  $\frac{1}{4}$  of 15.432 grains), and in serious cases this dose may be raised to 14 to 30 centigrammes, combining it with an equal quantity of extract of rhubarb and some extract of henbane. In very severe diseases Dr. de Stefani thinks that this dose might be doubled or trebled, as, for instance, in tetanus and hydrophobia, but he has not yet employed it in such cases.

Dr. de Stefani gives the history of twelve cases treated by him in the manner indicated, and he regarded them as fully proving the efficacy of the drug.—*Brit. and For. Med.-Chir. Review*, from *Lo Sperimentale*, Firenze, May and June, 1874.

14. *On Gelatine Disks containing Alkaloids for Hypodermic Administration.*—Dr A. ERNEST SANSON, Assistant Physician to the London Hospital, in the *Medical Times and Gazette* for Oct. 31, 1874, makes the following practical and apparently excellent suggestion.

He says: "There can be no doubt of the value of the hypodermic injection of solutions containing salts of the sedative alkaloids in many conditions of pain, and very probably such a method of administration of remedies only waits a further development. Certain of the difficulties connected with the operation are now reduced to a minimum; syringes are well constructed, and, by improvements in the needle-pointed tubes, punctures are rendered almost painless. It has always seemed to me, however, that some objections stand in the way of the more extended employment of hypodermic medication. The first is that the solutions do not keep well, and in keeping vary in their strength. A practitioner requiring his solution in an emergency, finds it, after having left it for some time unused, mildewed and useless. A second objection is that the solutions are necessarily cumbrous to carry about. Chiefly, however, the objection is this: the cases calling for hypodermic treatment are sudden, the solution is not at hand, and by the time it is procured the great opportunity is lost.